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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 26, 1983 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 21 totaled an estimated 15.9 billion ton-miles, 6.2 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 20 weeks of 1983 was an estimated 306.6 billion ton-miles, 4.8 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 21 totaled 363,727 cars, 6.6 percent below 1982, and 0.9 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 10.6 percent in the East, 0.5 percent in the South and 7.4 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1982, 11 of the 21 commodity groups were up. Loadings of lumber and wood products were up 22.9 percent, nonmetallic minerals posted a gain of 21.7 percent, and stone, clay and glass products increased by 6.1 percent. Eleven of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 14 totaled 44,405 cars, up 22.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1982, and 76,981 trailers and/or containers, 16.0 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 19 weeks of the year was 798,673 cars, 16.8 percent higher than last year, and 1,367,700 trailers and/or containers, up 12.5 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/21/83:

	Loadings in Week ended May 21, 1983		Change from Corresponding Week 1982			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	19,216	D	6,016	23.8	D	1,362	6.6
Other farm products	3,536	D	978	21.7	D	210	5.6
Metallic ores	20,716	D	2,930	12.4	D	57	0.3
Coal	100,493	D	19,528	16.3	D	1,858	1.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,983	I	509	4.9	I	112	1.0
Nonmetallic minerals	10,915	I	1,943	21.7	D	766	6.6
Grain mill products	11,351	D	146	1.3	D	178	1.5
Food and kindred products	11,661	D	2,073	15.1	D	184	1.6
Primary forest products	14,475	D	994	6.4	D	1,101	7.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,903	I	1,471	22.9	I	623	8.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,373	D	1,317	7.9	I	300	2.0
Chemicals and allied products	22,424	I	439	2.0	D	678	2.9
Petroleum products	4,786	I	190	4.1	I	185	4.0
Stone, clay and glass products	10,825	I	622	6.1	D	510	4.5
Coke	4,862	I	331	7.3	I	160	3.4
Metals and products	8,259	D	1,501	15.4	I	166	2.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,608	I	513	2.8	I	752	4.2
Waste and scrap materials	8,740	I	69	0.8	I	16	0.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,505	I	377	4.6	I	375	4.6
All other carloads	49,825	I	4,641	10.3	I	801	1.6
LCL traffic	271	I	1,405	83.8	I	15	5.9
Total Cars Loaded	363,727	D	25,783	6.6	D	3,399	0.9
Corresponding week of 1982	389,510						

	1983	1982	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (20 weeks)	7,002,727	7,622,337	D 8.1

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):

19 weeks ended May 14	(Rev.) 290.7	305.1	D	4.7
Week ended May 21	15.9	16.9	D	6.2
20 weeks cumulative	306.6	332.0	D	4.8

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